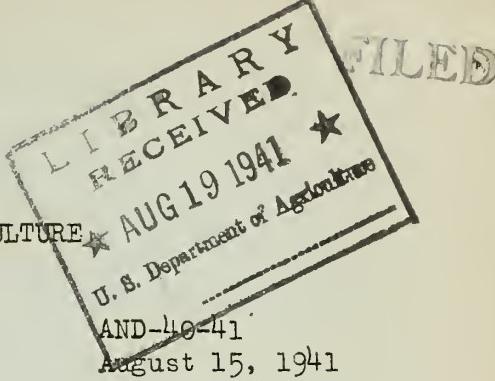


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information



PART I - STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

UNITED KINGDOM: The Ministry of Agriculture announced that a potato subsidy scheme in the form of acreage payments to growers was under consideration. The amount of the subsidy will be fixed at a figure which will maintain low prices to consumers. The potato acreage has already increased 50 percent and further increase is expected in the coming year. Consumption has increased by 400,000 long tons during the past year above the normal annual consumption level of about 3,750,000 tons.

A government spokesman stated in Parliament that it is in the national interest for consumption to increase further during the third year of war as a means of conserving shipping space. He pointed out also that it was the Government's duty to persuade the public to consume potatoes rather than bread. In that connection, consideration is being given to converting surplus potatoes into flour for mixing with wheat flour. Plant capacity in Great Britain plus plants in Northern Ireland, to be completed by the end of the year will give a total output of 80,000 tons of potato flour annually, which would be equivalent to a 2 percent admixture with wheat. Consideration is also being given to converting potatoes into glucose and other manufactured foods.

The Ministry of Food announced that consumers will shortly have to register for milk in order to ensure supplies for priority classes and to assist distribution among the remainder of the population. He pointed out that while no formal rationing scheme would be introduced consumers might have to use more condensed milk and less liquid milk next winter. Supplies of one pint of liquid milk a day will continue to be available to all expectant mothers and infants up to 5 years under provisions of the present national milk scheme. Supplies of half a pint a day at current prices will also be available for children and adolescents up to the end of their seventeenth year.

The Ministry announced that the weekly cheese ration will be increased to 3 ounces per person for ordinary consumers effective August 25. The ration of 8 ounces for priority classes will remain unchanged.

The Minister of Food in a speech dealing with the food situation stated that he had little hope of being able to increase the meat ration for the rest of the war. He indicated that if larger supplies became available they would go to the places where they were most needed, i.e., mines and industrial plants.

The Cotton Control announced that a new system would be introduced next week for allocating supplies of yarn to the various types of demand. The Materials Committee has decided the amount of raw material to be used for each purpose. The Cotton Control will license delivery or consumption of yarn needed for approved orders within those allocations. The existing preference directions system will be discontinued.

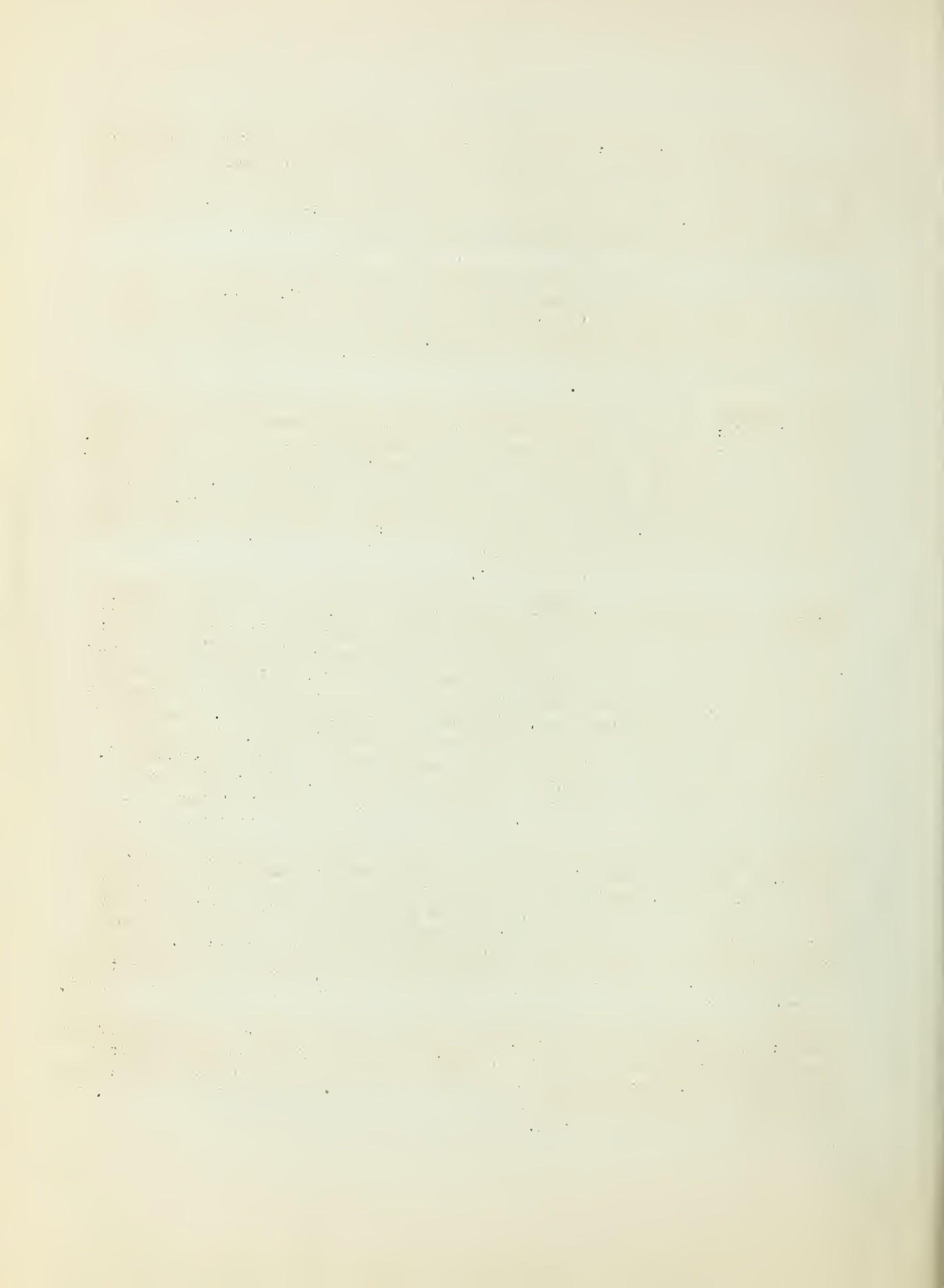
Under a control of cotton industry order effective August 11 the delivery of yarn spun from raw cotton waste or rayon staple fiber will be licensed only against approved orders. The use of yarn produced for their own consumption by spinner-manufacturers or spinner-doublers will also be subject to license.

SOUTH AFRICA: The wool season ended in June. All offerings to mid-June were taken over, after appraisal, under the British Purchasing Agreement. Information concerning the amount of wool purchased by the British Commission but not shipped by the end of the season is unavailable. The British purchasing agreement runs for the duration of the war and one year thereafter and guarantees taking of all wool offered. Exports of wool during the season were limited to Great Britain and the United States with small quantities to Japan and Switzerland.

SWEDEN: The Minister of Supply in a press statement on the food supply situation stated that the grain crop is about equal to last year's poor yield, but that the supply of cattle feeds is diminishing. This was expected to result in large slaughtering of cattle and canning of meat for future needs. The milk supply was expected to decline this winter and a meat shortage was anticipated. The potato crop is adequate. The sugar beet crop is smaller but the supply was still sufficient. The coffee supply at present is small and under rations will last until January 1. Cacao, however, will be available for another year. The artificial fertilizer supply in general is inadequate but with substitutes enough may be available for next year's crops, except for superphosphates.

RUSSIA: Spring sowing was virtually completed upon the outbreak of the Soviet-German war. Harvesting is now under way in the south and central areas. The press states grain deliveries are progressing normally and that efforts are being made to speed up harvesting. The harvest of all crops is said to be good and in some areas excellent. No figures have been published on the amount of grain destroyed by what is known as the scorched earth policy as this is presumably regarded as a military secret.

EGYPT: The Egyptian press carried despatches from their New York correspondents stating that owing to the cutting off of Japanese silk shipments American manufacturers might be obliged to import large quantities of long fiber Egyptian cotton, possibly as much as half a million bales, to be used as a silk substitute.



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PART II - FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

THE PRESIDENTS OF FOUR LEADING FARM ORGANIZATIONS have been named as a farm organization committee on agricultural production for defense and related matters. The committee is composed of James G. Patton, president of the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of America; Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation; Louis J. Taber, Master of the National Grange; and Judge John D. Miller, president of the National Cooperative Council. Secretary Wickard made the appointments at the suggestion of the President. The Office of Civilian Defense was consulted. The committee will meet regularly with the Secretary and other Department officials to aid with the defense production effort and to give assistance in other matters where the experience and resources of the farm organizations will prove helpful in meeting defense needs.

MORE THAN THREE MILLION PULETS--potential producers of eggs for United States defense workers and for Britons--have been added to the poultry population of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida by the 52,000 Farm Security Administration borrowers in that region. This big expansion of the source of a vital food item was the result of definite and careful planning by the low-income farm families of their part of the national defense effort. Similar expansion of normal farming activity in the interests of feeding the United States and Britain during the emergency is being carried out by borrower families in all eleven of the other FSA regions.

AN IMPORTANT SPEARHEAD IN THE RURAL NUTRITION PROGRAM is expected to swing into operation early this fall with the establishment of food processing centers in rural schools, estimated at some 10,000 in number, which are served by electric power lines financed through the Rural Electrification Administration. The food processing centers not only will serve general community needs in the more than 2,300 counties where REA operates, but will provide facilities for preparing school lunches, and for home demonstration agents, Farm Security Home Supervisors and other educators to teach adult groups better nutritional practices.

T. ROY REID, ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY, has been appointed by Secretary Wickard to serve as the Department of Agriculture's liaison officer with the Office of Civilian Defense.

STAPLE COTTON INSTEAD OF COTTON LINTERS may be used to manufacture smokeless powder for big guns, anti-aircraft shells and army rifles as a result of Department research. The linters, short fuzzy fibers removed from cotton seed after the ginning process, are particularly adapted to nitrating for the powder, but the present demand for this purpose and for certain other uses is far beyond the supply. Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, at its Southern Regional Research Laboratory, found that good-quality, clean cotton fiber of lengths ordinarily used in fabrics, when cut to a suitable length, apparently was as well adapted to the powder-making process as the linters. Research men have designed machines for processing the cotton cheaply and quickly and some such machines have already been built.

